

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Chris Bermudez and I am a registered voter from Waterbury.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 6659, the Governor's Budget. I am here to request that you increase funding for community nonprofits during the biennium by 9% in FY24, the first year, and 7% in FY25, the second year, and to index future increases to inflation. This funding is crucial to honoring your long-term plan to increase funding for community nonprofits because it makes up for the high inflation nonprofits have experienced over the last two years.

The increases the legislature provided in the last biennium were deeply appreciated by those who depend on the vital services that nonprofits provide in every city and town in Connecticut but is just the start of a long-term effort to make up for lost funding. But these advances could be lost if increases do not continue, given the magnitude of inflation on top of the nonprofit funding deficit.

I attend Mental Health Connecticut's Independence Center and I have been going since 1996. I really enjoy spending time there, attend the workshops, and get free meals. Please increase the budget over the next two years to keep helping our program. Thank you.